

## PUT IN THE PLANKS

Prohibitionists Lay Down a Comprehensive Platform

## BUILT TO CATCH THE CRANKS

Delegates Nominated From Each Congressional District to Attend the Cincinnati Convention—Adjourned.

The afternoon session of the convention was called to order at 1:45 by Chairman Russell. After the Rev. Dr. Clemon had invoked the divine blessing, the delegates proceeded to the business of the day.

The tellers announced the following list of the delegates at large elected to attend the national convention at Cincinnati: John Russell, Samuel Dickie, Mrs. Mary E. Lathrop, Hon. A. R. Cheney, J. M. Johnson, E. H. Bostwick, Mrs. Marion Baxter, D. W. Grandon, Miss Rena Michaels, Dr. H. A. Reynolds, Mrs. Rachel A. Bailey, Charles P. Russell, Albert Dodge, James Huston, James Hamilton, M. H. Walker, J. R. Lang, G. R. St. John, Judge Tateum, E. L. Brewer, Charles Mosher, L. T. White, W. B. Hounce, Rolio K. Bryan, and Brent Harding.

It was decided that each delegate at large should have the privilege of naming his own alternate.

The Hon. A. B. Cheney presented the report of the committee on resolutions as follows:

## The Party Platform.

The prohibition party of the state of Michigan in state convention assembled do hereby declare as follows:

That in the language of the New York Tribune it is impossible to examine any subject connected with the progress of civilization, the physical well being, the religious condition of the masses, without encountering the monstrous evil, the legalized liquor traffic. It is at the center of all social and political evil. It paralyzes beneficent energies in every direction. It neutralizes educational agencies. It silences the voice of religion. It baffles penal reform. It is the great obstruction of political reform. It rears aloft a mass of evil inspired power which at every salient point threatens social and national advance, which gives to ignorance and vice a greater potency than intelligence and virtue can command; which deprives the poor of the advantages of modern progress; which debauches and degrades millions, brutalizing and sordening them below the plane of healthy savagery and filling the centers of population with creatures whose condition almost excites the immorality which renders them the enemies and the disgrace of their generation.

That in the language of the supreme court of the United States, "the statistics of every state show a greater amount of crime and misery attributable to the use of ardent spirits obtained at their retail saloons than to any other cause."

That in view of the foregoing facts we demand that the manufacturer, importer, exporter, transporter and sale of alcoholic beverages shall be made public crimes and adequately punished as such.

No citizen should be denied the right to vote on account of sex. The circulating medium of the country may rightly consist of gold, silver and paper. It should all be legal tender and sufficient in quantity to meet the demands of business and give full opportunity for the employment of labor. No private individual or corporation should be allowed to make any profit through using it. Neither should it be possible for any man or combination of men to produce an artificial scarcity and secure exorbitant rates of interest.

## Demands a Free Ballot.

No citizen should be denied the right to vote.

That all trusts or combinations of capital for the purpose of controlling the prices of articles of necessity or popular consumption are unjust and oppressive and should be prohibited by law; and that we hail with pleasure the organization of workmen and farmers and the intelligent and just demands they make in their resolutions for the honest toilers and wealth producers; and we most earnestly invite the co-operation of workmen, farmers and all classes legislation and accomplish much needed industrial reform.

That the adjustment of the duties on imports should be fixed in a business like way by a national commission of experts and not made the foot ball of political acrobats. That the amount of duties levied should not exceed the necessary expenses of the government economically administered and that the wealth and luxuries should bear the burdens and not food, clothing and necessities of life.

We favor the most rigid state and national control of all railroads, express, telegraph and telephone lines in the interest of all the people.

Our immigration laws should be so revised as to exclude from our shores all diseased, ignorant persons, paupers and criminals. The required time of residence for naturalization should be extended and no naturalized person should vote within one year after naturalization papers are issued.

Prohibition sentiment that will allow itself to be officially misrepresented is impotent against the liquor traffic. The prohibition party cannot entertain any proposition to co-operate with a reform party that does not antagonize the liquor traffic as earnestly as it does other monopolies, false finance and other vicious legislation. That we deplore the increase of large landed estates and favor the institution of individual and corporate ownership of land.

## A Soldier Fell Lonely.

It was moved and supported that the resolutions adopted at this point in an old soldier in the audience asked if there was any part of the resolutions that referred to the old soldiers. He said he had been told that he was rather an odd one among them, in being a prohibitionist; but he didn't like to be lonely. Several delegates assured the old soldier that they had been in the late unpleasantness with him.

A motion to consider the platform plank by plank was carried. The last plank of the platform was stricken out. He believed in the desirability of the union of the reform forces of the country, but he didn't think it could be done at the present time, and he was opposed to putting the prohibition party in a position where it would ap-

pear to be waiting for bids from other political parties.

The chair ruled that Mr. Grandon's resolution was out of order.

A member remarked that he would like to have a shorter and more concise platform for the prohibition party, and he would like to have the long preamble of this one left off. Another member moved to strike out all of the platform except the preamble. The motion was lost, and the resolutions were voted upon in order. It was voted to strike out the word "ignorant" from the plank relating to immigration laws.

## Grandon Smiled a Rat.

The last plank created considerable discussion. Mr. Grandon reiterating what he had said before concerning it and calling attention to the statement that the author of the resolution, Mr. Crouser, was a member of the executive committee of the people's party. Mr. Grandon wanted to know if that statement was true.

Mr. Crouser said that he was a member of the state central committee of the people's party and also secretary of the prohibition party of Washtenaw county, but that he had a deep and righteous purpose in occupying such a position. He then explained the various clauses of the resolution. When the motion on the resolution was put the chair declared it carried, but a rising vote was called for, which resulted in a vote of 107 to 39 in favor of the resolution.

The platform as a whole was then adopted.

Mr. Brewer offered another plank for the platform the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we favor a per diem service pension to all honorably discharged union soldiers.

Dr. H. A. Reynolds proposed that some plank be introduced into the platform showing that the prohibitionists put some reliance in Almighty God. The chair instructed Dr. Reynolds to formulate some resolution expressive of his ideas in this respect and bring it before the convention. The matter was finally referred to the committee on resolutions, who introduced the idea into the preamble, making it read thus: "The prohibition party of the state of Michigan in state convention assembled, relying upon the favor of Almighty God, do hereby declare as follows:"

The following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, There is soon to be held in Chicago the World's Columbian exposition, designed to bring before the people of the United States and the people of the world, the progress of mankind in general, and especially the advancement of the United States of America.

Whereas, It is fitting that the World's Fair being held under the auspices of the United States government, should be conducted with order and decency, and

Whereas, That can not exist where intoxicating liquors are sold.

## A Shame and a Disgrace.

Be it resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the granting of licenses at the World's Fair will be a shame and disgrace to the country, and that the prohibition party of the state of Michigan, in convention assembled, do earnestly protest against such a course of action.

A rising vote of thanks was tendered the prohibition citizens of Grand Rapids for their generosity in providing for the convention during its stay in the city.

[Prof. Samuel] Dickie took the platform and pleaded for a large sum of money to carry on the campaign during the next nine months. A sum amounting to \$1000 was pledged.

The delegates from the several congressional districts selected the following district delegates and alternates:

First district—C. O. Chiman, Gideon Vivier; alternates, R. W. Crossman, William Fisher, all of Detroit.

Second district—C. K. Perrine, Jackson; G. S. Bradley, Jackson; alternate, R. C. Safford, Jackson; another one to be appointed.

Third district—Archie C. Betts, Hillsdale; Mrs. Pengelly, Kalamazoo; alternates, T. C. Montgomery, Hillsdale; W. Smith, Coldwater.

Fourth district—A. F. Mead, Cassopolis; W. W. Mills, Holland; alternates, Thomas Shepherd, Martin; Mrs. A. Barrett, Niles.

Fifth district—George H. Newell, Grand Rapids; W. C. Shepherd, Grand Rapids; alternates, E. A. Richards, Ionia; George Laubach, Ottawa.

Sixth district—Scott R. Malone, Lansing; R. D. Scott, Pontiac; alternates, Alonzo Torrey, Flint; L. H. Iyer, Mason.

Seventh district—The Rev. William Bradley, Mendon; John S. Parker, New Haven; alternates to be appointed.

Eighth district—B. S. Knapp, Orono; A. D. Tivy, East Saginaw; alternates, J. Newberry, Vernon; Mrs. M. Tivy, Saginaw.

Ninth district—J. F. A. Raider, Newaygo; A. A. Rowland, alternates, W. F. Kieft, Muskegon; Thomas Dorgan, Muskegon.

Tenth district—Joseph Leighton, Bay City; the Rev. M. C. Hawks, Bay City; alternates not elected.

Eleventh district—W. H. Umior, Traverse City; A. W. Dodge, Morley; alternates, Mrs. William Cook, Big Rapids; another to be reported.

Twelfth district—To be appointed by the state central committee.

## Close of the Convention.

James Huston, Samuel Dickie and John Russell were appointed a committee of three to make arrangements for the railroad transportation of the delegates to the national convention, and other matters incidental to their stay in that city. Other routine business having been transacted, a motion to adjourn was carried.

The Michigan delegation will go to Cincinnati without instruction on the question of presidential candidates. Michigan has no favorite son and nobody to boom, but will rally to the support of any good man the other states would nominate. There are about a dozen of first-class men in the field, among them Eugene Clapp of Boston, H. Clay Bassell, Troy, N. Y., W. T. Wardwell of New York, treasurer of the Standard Oil company, and twice the prohibitionist candidate for mayor of Gotham; W. J. Demarest of New York, publisher of Demorest's magazine; Judge Amos Briggs of Philadelphia; Elly Ritter of Indianapolis; James B. Hofer of Chicago, once president of the Chicago board of trade; Hugh Harrison, Minneapolis; Gen. John Bidwell, Chico, California, and R. H. McDonald, San Francisco. It is maintained that any one of these would make a strong candidate and if elected president would fill the White House with honor and dignity.

The new state central committee of the prohibition party met yesterday morning and organized by electing as chairman, Rev. John Russell, Detroit;

secretary, Brent Harding, Bay City; treasurer, Rev. Dr. W. C. Clemon, Birmingham; executive committee, the officers and Chas. P. Russell and Gideon Vivier. All matters of finance and the details of conducting the campaign were referred to the executive committee. It was determined to make the coming campaign one of the liveliest on record.

## RESCUED BY LIFE SAVERS.

Forty-Six Men Taken from the Wrecked Windermere at Deal Lake, N. J.

ASBURY, PARK, N. J., March 18.—The new steel clipper-rigged English vessel Windermere went ashore at 6 o'clock this morning at the foot of Deal Lake, North Asbury Park. The crew of the life saving station Nos. 5 and 6 were immediately on the spot and after hard work took off the captain and of forty-five men with the breeches buoy. Crew No. 5 reports the Windermere in good condition for saving. Among those assisting in hauling the breeches buoy ashore was Rev. S. Edward Young, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian church, the father of the bill now pending before congress for the relief of men in the life-saving service. Mr. Young said he never saw a better exhibition of bravery and skill, and he only wished members of congress were present.

The sea was running very high when the life saving corps reached the shore opposite the stranded clipper, and at first a rescue with boats appeared to be impracticable. The breeches buoy was accordingly put into use. A line shot across the deck of the ship, but those on board were either panic-stricken or too ignorant of its use to attempt self-assistance in getting ashore. Instructions from the shore were shouted out to the men on the ship, but were for a long time unheeded. Finally the line was made fast upon the mainmast, and after considerable delay one of the sailors adjusted himself securely in the buoy and slid along the line away from the vessel. The line slackened somewhat as he neared the beach, letting him under the water, in which position he was dragged to the shore, safe but exhausted. He was removed to the station, and the rescue of the second was begun in the same manner, and was attended with the same difficulty. The experience of the first two landed was of no value to the remaining, not one of them knew how to use the breeches buoy. Directions were printed on a small blackboard, which was run out to the vessel on a second line that followed the buoy line. These instructions were promptly followed, and finally all the crew were safely landed.

## MCUE'S PERILOUS SEE-SAW.

He Fell Eight Stories and Only Scratched His Back Slightly.

NEW YORK, March 18.—If Thomas McCue, of No. 322 East Sixty-first street, New York, does not consider himself spared for some great purpose there is no use depending on signs. When a man falls from the eighth story of a building to the cellar and only scrapes his back and cuts his hands there must be something out of the common in it.

McCue was working in the new Franklin Trust company's building, Clinton and Montague streets, Brooklyn, and was hoisting a barrel full of cement from the cellar to the eighth floor. There is no elevator, but the stuff is hoisted up by block and tackle. The line, instead of being belayed on a cleat, was controlled by taking a turn around an iron bar and cutting his hands there must be something out of the common in it.

The workmen say that he went up as far as the eighth story before he let go. Then he fell, but as he fell he grabbed the thin air wildly. Finally he caught the rope, and though it cut his hands, he broke his fall. When he struck the cellar floor instead of lying still like a corpse should he got up and sat down on a barrel groaning. An ambulance call was sent out and Surgeon Miles examined the man. He had slight cuts on the hands and his backbone was scraped and he sustained a spinal concussion, but not a severe one. He was taken to his home, and, provided no complications ensue, will be out again soon.

## WHOLE FAMILY POISONED.

Two Sisters Dead and Their Brother Suspected of the Crime.

NASHVILLE, March 18.—Two girls lie dead from arsenic taken in a cup of coffee last night, three others of the family are sick with the poison, and the brother of the girls, a 19-year-old youth, is watched by the police as he lies on his sick bed under suspicion of being answerable for the crime. Last night Mrs. M. M. Melrose and her five children, Robert, David, Minnie, Mattie and Katie, were poisoned at the supper table. Katie, aged 14 years, died at 8 o'clock this morning, and Mattie, aged 17, died about an hour and a half later. While the inquest is not completed, such facts have been brought out as caused Chief Clark to leave an officer in charge of Robert Melrose, who lies sick from the poison himself. All except Robert were taken very sick at the table. Robert Melrose did not appear to be ill when he went for the doctor this morning, and the attention of the doctor was not called to him last night. It is believed that he drank a small quantity this morning in order to avert suspicion. Robert is about 19 years old and has been a wild boy. No motive for the crime is known.

## NEW YORK'S FAIR BILL PASSED.

It Appropriates \$300,000 and Provides for Sunday Closing.

ALBANY, March 18.—The world's fair bill appropriating \$300,000 for a New York exhibit at Chicago, came up to-day. An amendment increasing the amount appropriated to \$500,000 was voted down, but a provision for a state dairy display was adopted. Mr. Riley, of Troy, offered an amendment requiring only union labor to be employed on the New York building at the fair, which was beaten fifty-three to fifty-eight. The bill was then passed. The question of Sunday opening of the fair was not raised during the debate on the bill. Before the roll call began, however, Mr. Gould, of Lewis, asked for information relative to this provision. The speaker assured Mr. Gould and the assembly that the provision requiring the New York exhibit to be closed on Sunday was still in the bill. This was satisfactory all round. The vote on the bill was 120 for to none against.

## HOLD THE ACT GOOD

The Mortgage Tax Law Is Constitutional

## SO SAY THE SUPREME JUDGES

Their Decision Handed Down at Lansing Yesterday—Brief Synopsis of the Opinion.

LANSING, March 18.—The supreme court sustains the mortgage tax law, each justice writing an opinion. That of Justice Montgomery is the main opinion, Chief Justice Moore and Justice McGrath concurring, and Justices Grant and Long each with dissenting opinions. The main opinion is somewhat exhaustive, and instances the act substantially upon the following grounds: That it was constitutionally passed by both branches of the legislature; that the present act applies to mortgages in force at the time of its passage. It also applies to mortgages held by non-residents. It applies to savings banks and insurance companies, and mortgages held by them are to be taxed as real estate, deducting real estate to the full value of their capital stock.

There is nothing in the tax law nor the usury law, passed by the last legislature that prohibits from agreeing by whom the taxes should be paid, although the interest agreed upon and the taxes together would exceed the rate of interest which may be fixed at 8 percent by contract. The opinion maintains the doctrine that the court can go behind the journals to ascertain the constitutionality of the passage of the act passed. He concedes there is conflicting clauses in the journal before the house. Chief Justice Moore in concurring renews the status of the "supplement" to the journal which, it is claimed, contained a copy of the bill intended to be passed. He holds it to be no part of the journal and that it could only be so construed by a series of presumptions, and to allow the impeachment of legislative action by nature of it, would be a usurpation of legislative powers by the court. Every presumption, he says, is in favor of the due enactment of the law. If the journal is resorted to the law can only fail when it appears from that constitutional methods have not operated in its passage.

Justice McGrath does not regard it of little importance whether the supplement is regarded a part of the journal or not. The journal nowhere shows that a single amendment was directed to it therefore, some other bill must have been before the house. This appearing, it must be presumed that some other bill was passed by the house. There were six amendments offered, and all of them could have been in direct conflict with the "supplement" bill.

Justice Grant also reviews fully the house proceedings in dissenting, and argues with Justice Long that the act is unconstitutional, and that the existing tax law is in force, and that the act passed by the legislature was not the one signed by the governor. He shows that the bill as signed contains clauses not acted upon according to the house journal, consequently the act must fail. He calls especial attention to one instance. The journal supplement contains a provision with reference to the penalty for an agreement between the mortgage and mortgages. The provision does not appear in the act. The house journal shows no attempt to strike it out. By the absence of this provision the law has no force or effect. According to the intention of its framers for taxation of mortgages, we cannot presume that the legislature intended to leave it out.

Justice Long discusses the other unconstitutional features of the bill besides the unconstitutionality of its passage.

The whole tax upon the land and the mortgage interest is made lien upon the land and it may be sold as well as the personal property of the mortgagee to pay the tax of the mortgage. The principal and interest upon the mortgage may not be due for five years, yet the tax collector may seize the last piece of personal property under this act of the mortgagee to pay the tax of the mortgage.

He also shows that the rates secured by mortgage may become valuable in transfers, by the endorsements upon them and fall into the hands of other parties, and enforced against the mortgagee and he not be allowed to offset the mortgagee's tax that he has paid, and he would have no means of enforcing repayment from the mortgagee. The act permits the state to take the money of one to pay the debt of another; it compels the mortgagee to make a payment upon the mortgage long before it is due, so that the state may get its revenues, an act which the constitution prohibits. He also discusses the hardship upon the mortgagee before the board of review. Should he not appear, having the opportunity, he has no remedy, as he had already has his day in court or might have had.

## STARVING TO DEATH BY INCHES.

Basu Tracy Is Reduced to a Skeleton, but Still Hangs On to Life.

CHENOWETHVILLE, Ind., March 18.—Basu Tracy, the record-breaking faster, still lives. The wonderful vitality of the man, who lacks a few years of being a centenarian, and who for seven weeks has tasted neither medicine nor food of any description, has attracted wide attention in the medical profession. He has passed the major portion of his life in this country, where he has been an influential citizen. He lies on his bed utterly helpless, suffering none, but merely dying from old age. Several ailments have been made to give him milk, but his system is beyond the power of assimilation. So greatly wasted is he from the long fast that by placing the hands on the stomach one can feel his backbone. There is absolutely no flesh on the skeleton of a man who once weighed nearly 200 pounds, and he can be picked up by a woman without exertion.

## SALT PRODUCERS COMPLAIN.

Manufacturers Say Their Michigan Competitors Are Unjustly Favored.

TOPEKA, Kan., March 18.—The Kansas salt company of Hutchinson today made complaint before the state board of railroad commissioners that it is being discriminated against in favor

of Michigan salt producers by the St. Joseph & Grand Island, the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe, the Burlington & Missouri River, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, the Kansas City, Wyandotte & New Mexico, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas, the St. Louis & San Francisco, the Union Pacific and the Missouri Pacific railroad companies, and prayed for a reduction of rates in this state in conformity to those given on salt shipped from Michigan and eastern points. It is alleged that the joint through traffic adopted by the defendants September 1, 1890, enables them to transport salt from Chicago to Kansas points at from 5 to 8 mills per ton per mile, while the complainant must pay for transporting salt to the same points from 9 to 38 mills per ton per mile, and that the difference is about the same from St. Louis and Mississippi points. The excess charged complainant enables Michigan producers to shut them out of large territory.

## REED TALKS ON HILL.

The Czar Grows Humerous Over the Senator's Southern Tour.

PORTLAND, Me., March 18.—The Young Men's republican club tonight held its third annual dinner at Gilbert's hall, under unusually favorable auspices. Thomas B. Reed, in the course of a brief speech, said: "Perhaps the very best example of the fundamental difference between the democratic and republican parties can be seen in that curious excursion of Japhet in search of his father, or David hunting for the presidency—[laughter and applause]—which is now visible under southern heavens. David B. Hill is a typical democrat and he ought to be the presidential candidate of his party, because he represents it. He is like it. He understands it and in a short time, if he is elected, he will be it. The democratic party is the party of odds and ends. It is part of a bargain counter, or remnant counter. It is made up of people who are opposed to us for something which has happened. It is a party of negation."

## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

Prof. Demmon's Last Lecture in a Profitable Course.

At the meeting of the university extension class in West Michigan College hall last evening, the Hon. Roger W. Whitfield announced that Prof. Carhart of the university, had been secured to give a course of six lectures on "Electricity," the first lecture to be given in three weeks. Mr. Butterfield expressed the pleasure it gave him to say that thus far all the expenses of the course had been paid, and there was a little money ahead. He hoped that all would interest themselves in selling tickets for the next course, which promised to be of exceeding interest.

The subject of Prof. Demmon's lecture was Alfred Tennyson. As a setting for what was to follow, the professor gave a short review of the tendencies of the eighteenth century, and spoke of the influences they had upon the literary age, beginning with the reign of Queen Victoria, a reign which is second only to that of Elizabeth in literary prominence. The characteristics of this Victorian era were dwelt upon to some extent, and the professor's parenthetical and education of Tennyson received the attention of the speaker. Tennyson was born at Somersby, England, in August, 1809. His father was vicar of Somersby, and his mother was the daughter of a vicar, so that, as a boy, he was surrounded by the deepest religious influences. He was educated at Cambridge, but even before entering college his poetical career had begun. His early poems were handled roughly by the reviewers, but in 1842 a revised edition appeared, which contained many new poems and omitted many of the old. The wonderful melody of these poems placed him in the foremost rank of poets, and many of the literary men of the day sounded his praises. Carlyle said that Alfred Tennyson had proved that "singing in the English tongue was possible to some degree."

Professor Demmon thought that not only does Tennyson excel as a great literary artist, but that he is a great teacher of morals; that he has been his province to show the relation of art and morals, and that he has always been alive to all the questions of the feverish days of the nineteenth century. "In Memoriam," the speaker said, breathed more than any other poem, of the speculative troubles of the age, and answered them. Tennyson's poems are a gospel of hope and progress, and being such, their author has endeavored to lift the whole world. He has appealed to the moral and religious natures of mankind, has looked into the human heart, and voiced the heart cries of the age.

Carlyle's description of Tennyson was read by Professor Demmon, and the picture drawn of the two great masters "sitting smoking their pipes together—and saying nothing."

A noteworthy feature of Tennyson's poem is that he stands aloof from the anguish and terror of the afflictions," said the speaker. "The comparative failure of his dramas may be attributed to several causes. Among others, he is too suggestive, and lacks humor. He can't be several characters at the same time. But in his power of ornate description, he is the best specimen among the poets, confining himself, however, to quiet, dreamy scenes. Again, his correspondence of sound and sense is very prominent, as may be seen by reading 'Morte d'Arthur,' 'The Begone Song' from 'The Princess,' and 'Break, Break, Break.'"

Referring to the critics of Tennyson, Mr. Demmon said an interesting chapter might be written about them, but that he wished the poet had treated his critics as Wordsworth did, had let them alone. That Tennyson himself at last took that view was evident, for in all the later editions of his poems, his answers to his critics do not appear. The last one devoted to them is entitled "The Flower."

The judgment of those people who see in a decadence of power and genius in the latter poems of Tennyson was assailed by the speaker, who declared his opinion to be that some of them were the best he had ever written. The poem, "Crossing the Bar," written after the author had reached the four score mark was read in proof of the assertion, and the attention of the audience called to its pathos, power of conception and beauty of sentiment.

In conclusion, Prof. Demmon spoke of the powers of the laureate as a writer of dialect, and read one of his late poems, "Mollie Motlee," as an illustration, apologizing, however, for his inability to give the poem in the "rich Irish brogue" which it called for.

## DAVID B. GETS MAD

Over a Contested Election Case in the House

## HE FAILED TO BULLDOZE A MAN

Who Had the Mettle to Answer Him as Emphatically as He Was Addressed.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Dave Hill and a prominent democratic member of the committee on elections narrowly escaped a personal encounter a short time ago, the details of which have just transpired. It was over the contested election case of Rockwell, democrat, and Noyes, republican, both of whom claimed a New York seat. Rockwell had possession, but after hearing both sides the committee decided in favor of Noyes. Hill heard of it and sent for the member mentioned, and told him that Noyes ought not to be seated. He was particularly emphatic that the decision should at least be held back until after the local New York elections. This the gentleman agreed to do. But this did not satisfy Hill, who, after the election, sent for the democrat on the committee. They all obeyed the summons except the member mentioned, who wrote a note of excuse. The next morning he was told a gentleman desired to see him in the committee room. He found Hill, who, in a very impudent manner, exclaimed as the member entered:

"You broke your engagement with me, sir."

"You received my note, I presume," said the other. "It explained my reasons."

"I want no explanations," cried Hill. "I intend that Rockwell shall be seated."

"Better arguments than yours have been made, Senator Hill, but they did not convince the committee."

"Do you mean to tell me," Hill cried, shaking his fist in the member's face—"do you mean to tell me you will unseat a democrat when you have a majority of the committee?"

"I mean to tell you, Senator Hill," replied the other, advancing threateningly toward Hill and shaking his own fist in turn, "that your manner is offensive and your suggestions insulting."

Ere Hill could reply several members were in the room, fearing a fight, rushed between the two, whereupon the member turned upon his heel and left the room. Hill followed, but the member had disappeared. A great effort was made to keep the affair quiet, but an eye witness who objects to Tammany bulldozing, thought the public should know of it and he leaked.

## SHE DIDN'T WANT HER BABY.

How Mrs. Frank Cicio Freely Gave Her Child to Her Husband.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Mrs. Frank Cicio, the German wife of a well-known Italian barber, of Brooklyn, astonished Justice Connelly and the whole court room full of people. She is a fine looking young woman, with gold-rimmed eye-glasses, and she brought into court with her the cutest little year-old baby that a body ever saw. The women in court were borrowing it and tickling its cheeks to make it "laugh a little." Mrs. Cicio had her husband arraigned for abandonment.

When he came up before the court Mrs. Cicio said with emphasis: "Compel my husband to take the child and I'll withdraw the charge. I don't want the baby."

Every woman in the court said: "Well, did you ever?" and the judge nearly fell off the chair.

"Are you the mother of this little one?" he asked sharply.

"Yes, sir."

"And are you willing to relinquish all claim to it?"

"What's my privilege," snapped Mrs. Cicio. "If he takes the child I'll withdraw the charge."

"Well, you're different from most mothers. Cicio, what do you say?"

"I hardly dared hope for it," said Cicio. "It's almost too good to be true." He held out his arms and his mother tossed the baby into them. The little one crowded and chirruped and kicked up its heels in great glee.

The case was dismissed, and Cicio took the baby to his mother's house.

## SHOOK FOR HIS LAST DRINK.

Clifton Wright's Sensational Suicide in a Saloon.

AKRON, O., March 18.—On the very brink of the grave, with the knowledge that death was in a few minutes to be his portion, Clifton Wright proposed to saloonist Broughton to shake dice for his last drink. This was at a late hour last night. Wright walked into the saloon, called for a waiter and poured into his glass a large quantity of chloral hydrate. He drank the mixture and calmly announcing that he would be dead in five minutes proposed the dice game. Three minutes afterward he became confused, put his hands convulsively to his head and fell forward to the floor. He was taken to his home in an ambulance and died in an hour. Two years ago he married a Miss Berth, of Bowling Green, Ky. Infidelity reigned in their home and a week ago she left him without a word. Yesterday he received notice that divorce proceedings would be begun. His last act was the result. He was a traveling salesman, handsome, popular, gifted, and widely known.

## Thayer Creates a Surprise.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 18.—On Tuesday next ex-Governor Thayer will move in the state supreme court for a re-opening of the case of Thayer vs. Boyd. The announcement causes much surprise. He says he is impelled to this action by the earnest solicitation of leading men of the state.

## Excitement in Berlin.

BERLIN, March 18.—The greatest excitement prevails here and wild rumors are started hourly as to the progress of affairs between the emperor and his cabinet. It is said tonight that the emperor will probably let Count Zedlitz go but will make every effort to retain Caprivi.

## Iowa's Prohibition Law.

DES MOINES, Iowa, March 18.—The republican members of the house held a caucus this evening and decided to vote against the Gratch local option bill. This means that the prohibition law will not be changed by this legislature.